



Westminster

Presbyterian Church

ZEPHYRS

LENT 2021



COMMUNITY | Pastor Rob McClellan

The pandemic has forced us to change. In doing so, it has clarified what we have missed (also what we haven't missed!) and what it is for which we are yearning.

In the church, it is clear that as much as anything, what people have missed is community. Our virtual worship services have gotten better since the early days of the pandemic. They're far from perfect, but the teachings are there. The prayers are there. What isn't there is the physical being together in prayer, in song, in solidarity. It is not only about the content of a service that makes church. It's the coming together for worship, study, spiritual practice, service, education, and action.

The coming together matters. Zoom has been a great tool, and we *(cont...)*

WHAT ARE YOU/WE UP TO?

Associate Pastor Bethany Nelson

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. This is the 40-day season (not including Sundays) prior to Easter, and is typically a time of self-reflection, repentance, and a deepening focus on our own faith journeys as we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem.

Our worship theme this Lenten season will be *"What are you/we up to?"*

Worship expert Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee explains this theme as follows:

"Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just 'giving up' in Lent, this season, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is 'up to' and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. What pursuits are we up to in our lives that call (cont...)"



COMMUNITY

Continued...

will continue to use it in the future to make meetings and other ministries more accessible, but there is no substitute for being together.

The Greek word translated “church” in the New Testament is ekklesia. It means “assembly.” It actually means assembly gathered for political purposes, but that’s an article for another day. The point is church is about being together.

One of the five areas of focus for the strategic planning work we are doing is strengthening our beloved community here at Westminster. It is both a strength and an area of huge potential for us. What if building beloved community, community anchored in our shared faith, was considered not just a pleasant byproduct of the church, but a true focus? As one member put it recently, this is about relationship that’s grounded in more than just a cup of coffee and small talk.

I don’t have to enumerate the divisions in our society. Disunity, however, isn’t our problem. Our disunity is a messenger trying to tell us something about our deeper wounds. It’s inviting our attention. It’s not that we no longer have shared values; it’s that we seem no longer to have shared realities. Community is a piece of the antidote to what ails us because it gives us a chance to build a shared set of experiences, as well as establish and nurture trusting relationships in which difference may be shared, all grounded in a common commitment to the way of Jesus Christ. That’s the unique characteristic of Christian community.

Since so many forms of being together have been taken from us in this time, think about what you have missed. Consider what you would like that we have not had in the past. Get engaged in supporting those things in the life of this congregation. If you don’t, who will?

I like to think of the time when we start returning to the church in person as a season not just of rebuilding, but as building back better. Our building is ready; our community awaits our reconstruction. It will require just as much energy, intention, and commitment. Are you ready?

God’s Peace,
Rob

WHAT ARE YOU/WE UP TO?

Continued...

us to be our best selves, and our best selves as the church?”

It feels like we have had to give up a lot this past year. I appreciate the idea that Lent can be about more than just “giving up.” That being said, if giving something up is an important practice for you in order to draw closer to God during Lent, by all means, do that! However, if the thought of giving up yet something else after the challenges of this past year simply makes you weary, you are invited into different spiritual practices this year. In worship, we will examine what Jesus is “up to” in his ministry and consider how he inspires us to ministry both individually and as a community.

We also have several devotional options for you this year.

- **Presbyterians Today** is offering a free, online devotional titled, “*The Way to Shalom: A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness.*” Use this link to access daily scripture readings, reflections, and prayers. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/>

- Many of you participated in our 21 day racial equity habit building discussions over the summer, and have expressed interest in exploring in more detail the intersection of our faith and racial equity. Cheri L. Mills offers a Lenten devotional titled, “*Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery.*” It is available for \$14 here - www.wjkbooks.com.

- Our Lenten family devotional focuses on prayer and is available on our website under the Members page. It offers a weekly scripture reading and reflection, as well as a special project to work on each week. This is written for all ages.

I plan to read all three of these devotionals for my own Lenten practice, as I think they will compliment each other nicely – calling us to action while reminding us of the importance of prayer and shalom.

We often publish a detailed Holy Week schedule in our Lenten Zephyrs, but this year, we simply do not know what the future will hold ... even just a few weeks from now. Stay tuned! What we do know is that during this season of Lent, we will continue to worship, to study, and to pray. We will be “up to” much, both individually and together. Blessings on the journey.

Peace,
Bethany



MUSIC THROUGH LENT | Ruth E. Wells, Music Director

As I write this, I'm not sure what I can tell you about worship music for the Lenten season. It's hard to know what to plan when we don't know when we might be able to worship in person again. But since we will likely continue to have any vocal music pre-recorded, we need to adhere to the limitations around what can be presented in a streaming format.

This helps to explain why the worship music for much of the past year has more often than not – been a one-woman show. Bethany and I have both used with decent success the groovy recording apps that enable one person to record more than one part. And I have the added benefit of being able to include another member of my household from time to time.

We are somewhat limited in the repertoire we can choose by what we have license to present on a streaming platform (YouTube or Facebook Live). Just because you own a copy of the score (even hymns), doesn't mean you can just put it out for the universe to enjoy.

We have purchased licenses for the year to cover the hymns and much of the contemporary worship repertoire. But to limit our administrative costs, we haven't pursued licensing for the choral pieces I might ordinarily use, which need to be cleared by each publisher. Of course, any of my original compositions are fair game, so I've chosen to leverage that. We managed to make it through Lent and Easter last year without choral singing, and we will again in time. This year will just have to be different.

Ruth E.

POETRY CORNER

Submitted by Debbie Dybsky, on behalf of the Spiritual Life Commission

A HEART OF LOVE

A heart of love is pure and kind.
It knows no evil ways.
It's jealous not, nor proud in mind.
Its patience never fails.

Its manners good, a hopeful love,
So faithful and so true.
Its very root is from above,
The Lord who sees us through.

May each of us desire this heart,
a heart of love divine.
From Christ-like love let's not depart.
It's true love best defined.

By Jocelyn Ongdico



WELCOME TESS DEDDO!

We are excited to welcome Tess Deddo to the Westminster staff as our new office administrator. Her office hours will be 10:00am-3:00pm, Monday—Thursday, and she can be reached at: **415-383-5272 x1** or **tess@wpctiburon.org**. Here is a little more about Tess, in her own words:

I'm delighted to join the Westminster community as Church Administrator. I am especially drawn to this position because it is important to me to have work that is community and service oriented, and all the better to be among others who are of faith.

With more than twenty years of experience as an Executive Assistant, I've been fortunate to have had work that combines administrative, organizing, and project coordinating skills with the creative elements of writing, editing, event planning and photography. Prior to joining the staff at WPC, I served for a decade at The Branson School, a private high school in Ross, as Director of the Head's Office & Board Relations, and then worked with an author on a book manuscript as Assistant Editor. I've had some colorful and interesting jobs in my collective work life: interior decorator; weekend retreat organizer; prize coordinator for The Price is Right and make-up artist, both at CBS Television Network; administrator, project coordinator and set decorator for Back to the Future: The Ride at Universal Studios; art director for an advertising agency; and personal assistant to documentary filmmaker Ken Burns.

I have a love of people, nature (and the stewardship thereof), and art in all forms. I earned a B.A. in Psychology & Communication (with a minor in Theoretical Physics) from Vermont College, during which time I studied the physics of understanding meaning through dialogue, in connection with communication, collaboration and creativity. I also explored communication through film.

In February of 2014 I became a below-knee amputee following complications from having had polio as a child. I mention this to let you know that my amputation was a good thing; I was more disabled beforehand. So, you'll see me sporting a state-of-the-art prosthetic leg, and I hope you'll feel comfortable checking it out and asking me any questions.

In my spare time I enjoy being in nature, painting (abstract art), reading, writing, music, exploring and learning new things, and spending time with family and friends (pre-pandemic, and looking forward to post-pandemic!). I have two lovely adult children, and I would say that I'm an eternal optimist with a penchant for humor.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Like many things during these past months, Ash Wednesday will look a little different this year. We are planning two gatherings on **February 17** to mark the beginning of the Lenten season together.

1. A Zoom worship gathering at 9:30am.
2. An outdoor, in-person worship gathering in the WPC parking lot at 12:00pm.

See the eNews or the WPC website for both the 9:30 Zoom link and the 12:00 pre-registration link.





CAN YOU GIVE UP INEQUALITY FOR LENT?

Jeff Shankle, Director of Youth Ministry

Have you noticed the vast inequality between youth around our country and yes, even here in Marin County? Over the past year, we have seen income inequality become even more exacerbated. While some families have been asking, “How will we afford to add technology to necessities like food, shelter, and medicine?” others have been asking, “Where will we Zoom school and work this week? Home? Tahoe? Hawaii?”

Our Holy Text tells us that Jesus came to us rich yet made Himself poor. He famously prepared for His ministry by spending 40 days in the desert riding Himself of everything. Do you have any idea what this could be like? More practically, do you have any idea what those living on the other side of

our societal divide are going through? Maybe the gift of Lent is the chance to find out.

Some of us have never felt closer to God than lately because, frankly, we don’t have anything else to rely on. For others of us, this is the season we are privileged enough to choose to find that level of dependence.

Hopefully over the coming 40 days of Lent we can deepen our connection with the Divine. Maybe we can also deepen our level of empathy and connection with those whose situation is more dire. They are the ones who are simply adding another 40 days to the 300 or so they’ve already been dependent upon something beyond themselves. We have much to learn from them and to teach our children.

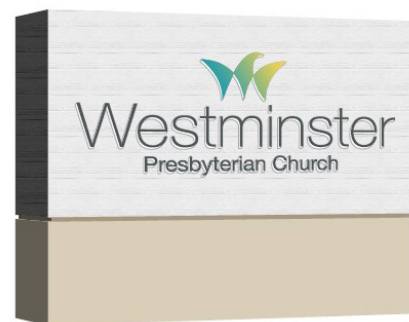
So when your kids ask, “Why can’t we just give up chocolate again this year?” we’ll be praying for the important conversations you’ll be able to have. Just imagine, you’ll have 40 chances to talk about how God loves and values us equally. You’ll have 40 chances to talk about how important it is to see the world and feel its struggle the same way Jesus did. What a gift! What a privilege!

NOTES FROM THE RENOVATION COMMITTEE | Ron Meserve, Chair

One of the exciting additions soon to be gracing the WPC property will be a new welcoming sign!

The planning for this sign has been managed by Adam Krivatsy. Jo Cooper donated the funds necessary to pay for this sign. We were notified in mid-January that the specifications were approved by the Strawberry Design Review Board, which enabled us to obtain the necessary permit from the County.

The picture on the top reveals how the sign will appear in daylight. The picture at the bottom demonstrates the night view. The graphics and text are in a translucent style with lights inside. This creates a very subtle look since spotlights will not be required.



day time



night time

SPIRITUAL LIFE LENTEN SERIES



TUESDAYS, MARCH 2-23, 6:00-7:00PM

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! The spiritually uplifting Advent Series offered to our community by our Spiritual Life Commission was so successful, a Lenten Series will be presented in March. Join us for one session or more! Find the Zoom link in the eNews or on the WPC website.

MARCH 2

LENT: A TIME OF LONGING AND LOVE

with Colette Lafia

We will engage in quiet prayer, the practice of “*Visio Divina*” (praying with images), and sharing and listening from the heart. Colette is a spiritual director, retreat facilitator and writer who invites people to see themselves as a manifestation of Divine Love.

(www.colettelafia.com)

MARCH 9

THE PRODIGAL FATHER AND THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS with Kathleen Dennison

We will examine the unconditional love and forgiveness found in the parable of the Prodigal Son. Through a guided meditation, we will discover ways to apply this forgiveness to ourselves and one another. Kathleen’s background includes teaching, spiritual direction, prison chaplaincy, and counseling.

(www.findinghealingwithin.com)

MARCH 16

WHEN WE SUFFER with Ted Scott, WPC Parish Associate

Ted will share a guided meditation to help us understand and appreciate Jesus’s approach and response to suffering, and how we can apply this to our own suffering.

MARCH 23

COMING HOME TO YOURSELF with Erin Elliott, WPC member

Erin will lead a special restorative Yoga-inspired Movement session. This will be a deeply nurturing hour of rest and renewal from the comfort of your home. This session is appropriate for anyone and everyone. Adaptations will be offered for those with physical limitations, and no special equipment is required. Erin has been offering weekly yoga classes for the past three years at WPC (live and via Zoom). Any questions in advance, please reach out to Erin via her website:

www.erinelliottyoga.com.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP: CONVERSATION WITH BILL AND BETTY HASLER | By Christina Hanson,

Stewardship Commission Chair

Bill and Betty Hasler have been members of Westminster Presbyterian Church for over 20 years. Their connection to WPC and its members has grown over the years, thanks in large part to their involvement in the church and its programs beyond attending weekly church services. In our virtual conversation, we learned how and why they continue to support the work of WPC.

Raised in east Texas in the Southern Baptist tradition, Betty's faith was instilled at an early age. After completing her graduate degree at Texas Tech, she moved to the Bay Area, where she has had a successful career in executive recruitment. Bill grew up in southern California in the Methodist tradition, and when he and Betty moved to Belvedere, they visited many churches before settling on WPC. At first, it was the charisma of Pastor Doug Huneke that drew them to WPC, though as they shared their time and talents, their love for the congregation grew.



Bill and Betty Hasler

Betty admitted that at first, they showed up for church and would head straight home. Her first involvement at WPC was on the search committee for the Youth Director position, which brought Bethany Nelson to WPC. Betty shared, *"When you do something like that and spend hours with people you didn't know before, it is a real catalyst."* She then became even more involved, attending the programming for women, preparing meals for the Voyager Carmel mission, becoming ordained as a Ruling Elder and serving on Session for three years. She most recently served as chair of the Personnel Committee, lending her expertise for a number of years. It was her role on the Pastor Nominating Committee that culminated in appointing Pastor Rob McClellan, during which time her deepest church friendships developed. *"When you are involved in an activity, every time you touch that activity, your relationships and commitment grow."*

So, how do they view the concept of stewardship, and why do they choose to financially support Westminster? For Betty, having grown up in the Southern Baptist tradition, the concept and importance of tithing was drilled into her by her parents; it is part of her heritage. Yet it was her participation in Session and overseeing the church's budget that most impressed her. *"As you get to know a church, you see how far a dollar goes."* In contrast to the mega-large churches of Texas with huge budgets, Westminster does an incredible amount of work and has so much community impact with not even one-tenth of the funding that larger churches have. *"It all comes down to the passion of the congregation and everything this church represents – social justice, housing, immigration – and we support it."*

Bill, who in his career served as Dean of the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, understands the value of stewardship. *"It is not just fundraising. It's about supporting your constituencies and providing outreach to them."* For those who may wonder why to financially support WPC, Bill shared that there is so much that WPC offers, and sometimes it is just finding that one spark that matches someone's interest; when they see the value of what the church does, they may be inspired to give. Bill, who has a financial background and has served two years on the Finance Commission, echoed Betty's sentiments, *"This church is doing a lot with what we have."*

Bill and Betty appreciate the WPC community and all that it provides. *"The ministry from the pulpit is extraordinary in terms of spiritual growth and guidance. We feel well-fed spiritually from the leadership. What our church members do to impact the community, including feeding people and developing youth, is also extraordinary!"*

For now, Bill and Betty participate in the weekly virtual church services, though they look forward to the day when we can all return to the sanctuary and in-person fellowship like the small group dinners. They feel like they are an integral part of our church family – more than just spectators – and that brings them great joy!

HOLY WEEK 2021

We do not yet know exactly what Holy Week will look like this year, but we do know that it will involve a mix of in-person (either indoor or outdoor, depending on current regulations) and online worship gatherings. Stay tuned for exact times.



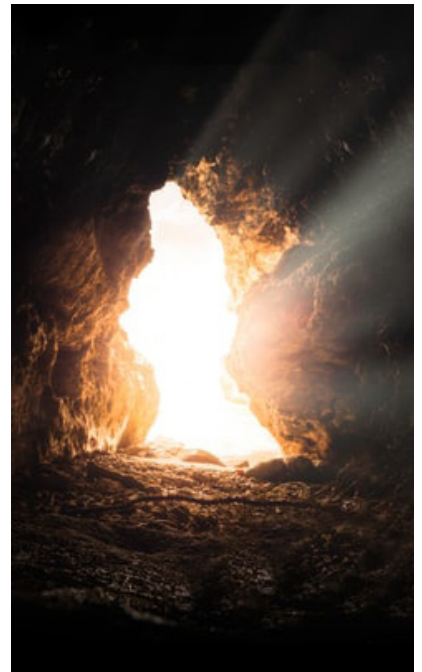
Palm Sunday – March 28



Maundy Thursday – April 1



Good Friday – April 2



Easter Sunday – April 4


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